



Idaho State Department of Agriculture Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Program Activity since March 2007

Introduction

Grasshoppers and Mormon crickets continue to be one of the most serious pest problems in Idaho rangelands and adjacent croplands. Based on annual surveys conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Idaho has experienced very serious pest outbreaks during the last few years. The management and the timely control of grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations are high priorities for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and our cooperators at USDA, APHIS. Congress has addressed this environmental crisis with special funding to the impacted states of Idaho, Utah, and Nevada.

Background

Sixty-four percent of Idaho lands are administered by the Federal Government and 43% percent of the state (21.8 million acres) are classified as rangelands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 11.8 million acres in Idaho, much of it prime grasshopper/Mormon cricket habitat. There is a significant area of grasshopper and Mormon cricket habitat on federal lands that borders private rangelands and irrigated croplands in the state. Mormon crickets and grasshoppers (primarily about six species) are cyclical economic pest problems, particularly in southern Idaho.

Links:

For additional information and the life cycle of grasshoppers, you can go to a report called "USDA Agricultural Resources Service Grasshopper Web Site" located on the ISDA website at the following address:

<http://www.sidney.ars.usda.gov/grasshopper/index.htm>.

For additional information and the life cycle of Mormon crickets, you can go to a report called "Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 912 Mormon Cricket Fact Sheet" located on the ISDA website at the following address:

http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/PlantsInsects/GrasshopperMormonCricketControlProgram/ghprogramenvirodocs_pubs_reports.php

2007 Activity

From June 16 through July 20th

Scouting:

Scouts from Twin Falls have responded to several calls from various counties and found only limited infestations. No substantial infestations have been found in southeast and eastern Idaho.

Scouts from Boise have continued to respond to calls from Adams, Valley and Washington Counties.

Treatments:

A cost share aerial treatment was conducted in Washington County for grasshopper infestations. A total of 800 acres was treated with Dimilin 2L to protect 1,600 acres of grass pasture and grass hay.

A cost share aerial treatment was conducted in Valley County for grasshopper infestations. A total of 8,006 acres was treated with Dimilin 2L to protect 16,012 acres of grass pasture and grass hay.

A cost share ground spray treatment was conducted as well in Valley County for grasshopper infestations. A total of 1,833 acres was treated with Dimilin 2L to protect 3,666 acres of grass pasture and grass hay.

Bait:

A total of 40,232 pounds of bait has been distributed to Adams County in response to calls on grasshopper infestations and one call for Mormon Crickets.

A total of 16,990 pounds of bait has been distributed to Washington County in response to calls on grasshopper infestations.

A total of 30,000 pounds of bait has been distributed to Valley County in response to calls on grasshopper infestations.

Outreach:

No further town meetings have been held during the last month of activity.

From May 18 through June 15th

Scouting:

Scouts from Boise have been kept busy with complaints primarily for grasshoppers in Adams and Washington Counties. One complaint was received for Mormon crickets west of Cambridge in Adams County. Scouts from Boise

organized two private landowners and 160 acres of state land into a Cost Share Project to protect 1,600 acres from grasshoppers in Washington County scheduled for spraying the week of June 18th.

One complaint was received from Gem County for grasshoppers and the landowner was sent to Gardena to pick up bait.

Scouts in southeast Idaho have been to Bannock, Camas, Franklin, Fremont, Oneida and Power Counties.

Treatments:

ISDA conducted two ground treatments along Owyhee County road rights-of-way to treat 160 acres and 83 acres respectively for Mormon cricket migrations.

ISDA conducted a ground treatment on 35 acres of state land in Owyhee County for a Mormon cricket infestation.

Bait:

An additional 40,000 pounds of bait was received at the ISDA, Boise distribution facility.

An extensive number of private land owners have picked up bait in Adams and Washington Counties.

Ten-thousand pounds of bait was moved from the Twin Falls distribution facility to Oneida County.

Ten-thousand pounds of bait was moved from the Boise distribution facility to north-central Idaho with 5,000 pounds going to Grangeville and 5,000 pounds going to Lewiston.

Outreach:

A town meeting was held on May 22nd in Council with over 60 people attending from Adams County. Ben Simko spoke on the life cycle of grasshoppers, general pesticide stewardship, and the current bait and Dimilin 2L labels. Dick Lawson spoke on field operations. An open discussion and question period followed the ISDA presentations.

In the University of Idaho Extension, Washington County Newsletter, June 2007 issue, a half page article was written on the ISDA control options for Mormon crickets and grasshoppers.

As of May 18th

Scouting:

Initial scouting results in Ada, Canyon, Elmore, Oneida, Cassia and Owyhee Counties found very little or no activity. In several areas populations appear to be reduced from levels experienced in 2005 and 2006. Very few complaints have been received to date in 2007 compared to the same date in 2006.

Scouts have found limited counts of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets in the 1st to 3rd instars stage of growth in Washington and Adams Counties.

Western Owyhee County experienced a heavy infestation of Mormon crickets and was treated by APHIS on BLM lands by an aerial application with bait. ISDA provided bait to APHIS and to private land owners for treatment in the immediate area.

Field scouts from the Boise office attended an Integrated Pest Management workshop on grasshoppers in Klamath Falls, OR, on Thursday, April 12th.

Bait:

Bait has been delivered to distributors cooperating with ISDA in Adams, Boise, Nez Perce and Washington Counties. USDA, APHIS has received 25,000 pounds of bait for treatment(s) in Owyhee County. A 40,000 pound truck load of 2007 bait was delivered to ISDA in Boise. Six hundred pounds of bait was distributed from ISDA, Boise for use on private lands in Owyhee County. Two thousand pounds of bait was distributed for use on private lands in Cassia County.

Outreach:

An insect review meeting was held in Lewiston, ID in cooperation with the Nez Perce County Extension Office on Wednesday, April 18th. Speakers included Ben Simko and Dick Lawson.

A town meeting was held in Cambridge to discuss the current program, review grasshopper and Mormon cricket life cycles and general pesticide stewardship on Friday, May 18th. Speakers included Ben Simko and Dick Lawson followed by an open discussion period.